



**SOUTH ASIA:** Unseasonable dryness expanded to cover a broad section of northwestern, central, and southern India and Pakistan, limiting moisture for reproductive to filling oilseeds, cotton, sugarcane, and coarse grains. Above-normal temperatures exacerbated the situation, with highs ranging from the middle 30's to low 40's degrees C in the affected areas. Although the rainy season typically ends during mid-September in the more northerly growing areas, monsoon activity usually lasts into October in central India, where rainfall is needed to avoid significant declines in yield potential. In contrast, moderate to heavy showers (25-100 mm or more) continued throughout primary rice areas of eastern India and Bangladesh. During August, the southwest monsoon continued to perform erratically, bringing warmer- and drier-than-normal weather to central and northern India and Pakistan. Irrigation reserves were reportedly adequate in these areas, but moisture reserves were reduced for rainfed summer crop development. In contrast, flooding continued in the northern and eastern rice belts and developed late in the month in cotton and oilseed areas of India's southern interior.